



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **District Man Sentenced to 11-Year Prison Term For Sexual Attacks of Two Women He Met Through Craigslist**

WASHINGTON - Brandon B. Petty, 26, was sentenced today to eleven years in jail, followed by 20 years of supervised release, in connection with two sexual assaults of women he met through Craigslist, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Petty, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty July 30, 2010, to one count of assault with intent to commit first degree sexual abuse and one count of attempted first degree sexual abuse while armed. He was sentenced by the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

According to the government's evidence, the first incident occurred on Sept. 8, 2009 at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel north of Dupont Circle. Petty contacted the victim through an ad she was running for adult services on Craigslist. After making arrangements to meet, he arrived at her hotel room shortly after 7 p.m. Inside the room, he grabbed the victim by the hair, placed a knife to her neck and demanded money. He then forced her to the floor and told her to perform oral sex. The incident was interrupted by the victim's friend, who began to bang at the door from the hallway. As a result, Petty fled from the room. The victim and her friend spotted him a short time later near Dupont Circle and called 9-1-1. When Petty heard the police sirens, he ran. He was apprehended by officers of the Metropolitan Police Department after a short chase.

The second incident occurred April 21, 2010 at the Hilton Washington Hotel, also north of Dupont Circle. Petty contacted another victim, also through an ad she was running for adult services on Craigslist. After making arrangements to meet, he arrived at her hotel room shortly after 3 p.m. Inside the room, he grabbed the victim by the hair, placed a knife to her neck and demanded money. He then forced the victim to the floor and forced her to perform oral sex. Afterward, he fled from the room. Later that day, after reporting the incident to hotel security and the Metropolitan Police Department, the victim positively identified Petty from a series of photographs that were shown to her by the police. A subsequent examination of DNA evidence

and cellular phone records, as well as surveillance video from the hotel, all helped to link the defendant to the crime.

In addition to his incarceration, after his release the defendant will be supervised by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for a period of 20 years. He will also be required under District of Columbia law to register for life as a sex offender.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of Detectives Derek Bolding, Karen Zibrat, Randy Brooks, Jose Solloso and Lenard Jenkins, of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Sexual Assault Unit. He also acknowledged the work of the following additional MPD personnel: Officers Daniel Baez, John Muniz, Susan Mayer, Kimberly Metivier, Israel Coles and S.P. Amoden; Sergeants John McDonald and Lennox Antoine; Evidence Technicians James Holder, George Klein, Tina Ramadhan, Valerie Campbell and William Hyatt; DNA Examiner Jennifer Zeffer of the MPD Crime Lab; and Detectives Steven Schwalm and Jonathan Andrews.

U.S. Attorney Machen also praised the outstanding assistance that was provided by members of the U.S. Marshals Service, including Avon Jackson, Peter Amico, Richard Kelly, and Michael Picou. He also recognized the efforts of various staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Investigators Durand Odom and John Marsh; Victim Advocates Iris Vega and Melissa Milam; Victim Witness Services Coordinator La June Thames; Intelligence Analysts Sharon Johnson, Shannon Alexis, Larry Grasso, William Hamann; Paralegal Specialists Cynthia Muhammad and Kristy Penny; Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, and Litigation Technology Specialists Jeanie Latimore-Brown and William Henderson. Finally, the U.S. Attorney commended the hard work and dedication of Assistant U.S. Attorneys David M. Rubenstein and Karen Rich, who investigated, indicted and prosecuted the case.

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